Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Mauryan Empire

The Mauryan Empire existed from 321 B.C. to 185 B.C. Many competing kingdoms were spread across the northern plains. Into this battleground of rival kingdoms came Chandragupta Maurya. Chandragupta first gained power in the Ganges Valley, but with his army he soon conquered much of northern India. Over time his people moved southward into the Deccan Plateau. The Maurya dynasty set up an efficient bureaucracy and a strong government with its capital at Pataliputra. A bureaucracy is a system of managing government through departments that are run by appointed officials. Officials collected taxes and oversaw the building of roads and harbors, which helped trade to flourish. Other officials managed government-owned factories and shipyards. Mauryan rule was harsh, however. Chandragupta was suspicious of his many enemies. A brutal secret police force reported on crime, corruption, and dissent within his empire. Chandragupta’s grandson Asoka ruled differently. Horrified by the brutality of a campaign to conquer the Deccan, Asoka rejected further conquest. He turned to Buddhism, hoping to rule by moral example rather than by violence. The fierce fighting over the Plateau struck Asoka with remorse. Asoka sent Buddhist missionaries across India. Despite his desire to promote Buddhism, he was tolerant of other beliefs. Asoka’s rule united his diverse people and brought peace and prosperity. After his death, however, the empire declined, and rival kingdoms once again competed for power. The Maurya dynasty united much of India for the first time. Peace and prosperity resulted, and trade flourished. The capital at Pataliputra was one of the largest and richest cities of its time. The capital had schools and a library; learning was highly advanced. One of the most lasting contributions of the Maurya dynasty was the spreading of the Buddhist religion by means of missionary activity. Directions: Use your notebook to create a chart about the Maurya Empire.

**Directions: Read and observe the following documents below. Answer the corresponding questions.**

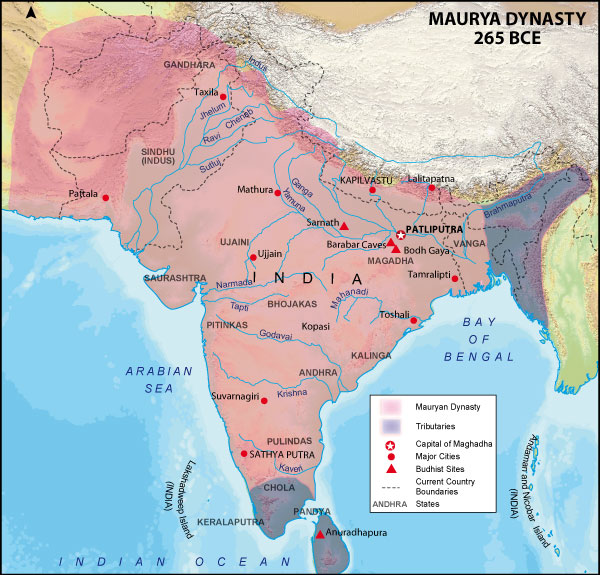
Documents

Document 1: The following was written by the grandson of King Chandragupta (273-232 BC): “All people are my children, and just as I desire for my children that they should obtain welfare and happiness, both in this world and the next, so do I desire the same for all people.” - King Asoka, Maurya Empire

**Question1: Why would King Asoka be popular with people he ruled in his empire?**

**Question 2: What components make a successful ruler/leader?**

Document 2: Map of the Mauryan Empire

**Question 1: How much of an influence do you think Chandragupta had on India?**

**Question 2:**

Document 3: The following was written by King Chandragupta Maurya (340 B.C - 298 B.C.)

"As soon as fear approaches near, attack and destroy it." - King Chandragupta, Maurya Empire

**Question 1: Do you believe Chandragupta’s success can be attributed to this quote? Why or why not?**

**Question 2: Does fear personally limit you from making decisions, or going after the things you want?**

Document 4: **The Mauryan legacy**

In later Indian records, the Mauryan empire appears only as an entry in the long list of kingdoms that made up the vast and complex history of India; no special significance was attached to it.

No magnificent architecture was left - the towns where the Maurya carried out most of their building work continued to be lived in right up to the present day, and so the Mauryan remains were buried under streets and buildings used by later generations.

Apart from a few brief mentions in some accounts, this great empire was all but forgotten - an astonishing fact given the great importance accorded by peoples in other parts of the world to their ancient empires.

In the 19th century, however, some British officials began to wonder, who built those mysterious pillars dotted around India? How come they are hundreds - thousands - of miles apart from one another? What do the inscriptions on them mean?

Then the truth about the Maurya gradually began to emerge. When it was realised that these pillars were the work of one king, called Asoka, whose realm covered a vast area of India and beyond, it was realised that here was an historical phenomenon of huge significance. - “Time Maps”

**Question 1: In your own words explain what lasting effects the Mauryan empire had on India.**

**Question 2: Hypothesizing, why do you think Indian records regard the Mauryan empire as insignificant?**